

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 OC-06 CCO-00  
SY-05 /082 W

-----003394 271024Z /11

P 271011Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6493

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, JA  
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AND OPENING OF NARITA AIRPORT.

SUMMARY: RAID BY EXTREMISTS ON NARITA CONTROL TOWER  
MARCH 26 MAY DELAY OPENING OF AIRPORT. HOWEVER,  
INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOJ WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO  
OPEN AIRPORT ON TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RAID BY EXTREMISTS ON THE CONTROL TOWER OF  
NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROTESTING ITS SCHEDULED  
OPENING ON FLIGHTS APRIL 2 PREEMPTED VERNACULAR PRESS  
HEADLINES AND EDITORIALS TODAY (MARCH 27). AN  
ESTIMATED 20,000 EXTREMISTS MARCHED ON NARITA SUNDAY  
AFTERNOON. APPROXIMATELY 300 OF THEM SMASHED THROUGH  
AIRPORT GATES, THREW FIREBOMBS, AND FOUGHT WITH POLICE.  
SIX DEMONSTRATORS MANAGED TO ENTER THE NARITA CONTROL  
TOWER, BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN FOR TWO HOURS, AND  
DESTROYED EQUIPMENT, FILES, AND BROKE WINDOWS. EDITORIAL  
EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT NARITA WOULD BE ABLE TO  
OPEN ON TIME AND VOICED CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF FLIGHTS  
AND PASSENGERS WHEN IT DOES BEGIN SERVICE.

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2. EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY GOJ OFFICIAL THAT A SPECIAL  
CABINET MEETING WAS HELD TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE DELAY  
IN THE OPENING OF NARITA WAS NOT ABLE TO REACH A  
CONCLUSION BECAUSE EXTENT OF DAMAGE WAS UNKNOWN. THEY  
WILL MEET AGAIN MARCH 28 BY WHICH TIME PRELIMINARY  
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT BY SPECIAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION  
TEAM WILL BE AVAILABLE. THE JAPAN CAB IS CONTINUING

TO STUDY THE SITUATION AND HAS DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON LENGTH OF DELAY.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH NORTHWEST AND PAN AM WHO VISITED NARITA DID NOT THINK THE TOWER COULD BECOME OPERATIONAL BY APRIL 2, THEY TOLD EMBOFFS. THEY EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT AIRPORT SECURITY TO EMBOFFS AND U.S. FAA OFFICERS. NORTHWEST HAS POSTPONED THE FIRST PHASE OF A SCHEDULED MOVE TO THEIR NEW OFFICES AT NARITA TODAY. THEY SAID THEY WERE NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPTS TO MOVE UNTIL OFFICIALLY GIVEN THE GO AHEAD BY GOJ. GOJ DID NOT STOP MOVES HOWEVER.

4. BEGIN COMMENT: IT WILL OBVIOUSLY TAKE SOMETIME FOR MOT SPECIALISTS TO ASSESS CONTROL TOWER DAMAGE AND EVEN LONGER FOR NEW EQUIPMENT, SOME OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, TO BE INSTALLED. AT THIS POINT INDICATIONS ARE THAT EXTREMISTS' WELL EXECUTED COUP HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ACCOMPLISHING ITS PURPOSE, DELAYING THE AIRPORT OPENING, PERHAPS FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

5. GOJ POSITION, HOWEVER, REMAINS FIRM. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT MEASURES WILL BE DECIDED ON AT MARCH 28 CABINET MEETING, BUT PRIMIN FUKUDA, JUSTICE MINISTERS AND TRANSPORT MINISTER SEEM DETERMINED, SINCE MUCH GOVERNMENT FACE IS INVOLVED AND SINCE INITIAL EDITORIAL REACTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNED DESTRUCTION, THEY WILL PROBABLY BE TOUGH. JUSTICE MINISTER TOLD PRESS ON MARCH 27 THAT CONTROL OF EXTREMISTS UNDER EXISTING LAWS WILL BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT ENACTMENT OF NEW ANTI-EXTREMIST LAWS WOULD BE STUDIED. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRPORTS, EXTREMISTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEMONSTRATIONS AND OPENING OF NARITA AIRPORT. SUMMARY: RAID BY EXTREMISTS ON NARITA CONTROL TOWER MARCH 26 MAY DELAY OPENING OF AIRPORT. HOWEVER  
**TAGS:** EAIR, PINS, JA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014